

fruiting wych elm was rare or exterminated in their habitat. Small suckers of *U. glabra* and other elms did survive Dutch elm disease and could have provided the conditions necessary to tide the species over until more favourable conditions ensued.

Or was the present population imported with the trees which were planted in the late 1970s, there to survive at low levels until conditions became favourable for the current population explosion? Two adult specimens retained show no obvious difference to other Surrey examples, but detailed examination by a butterfly expert might detect differences which suggest an origin from elsewhere in the UK or perhaps overseas.

The advantage that *S. w-album* has received from motorway construction may be quoted by the proponents of such works to show that such excrescences can be beneficial to wildlife. Whatever the utility of our road system this event must surely be viewed in the same 'positive' light as the fact that *Thalera fimbrialis* (Scop.) has seemed to benefit from the protection afforded by the fence which surrounds the Nuclear Electric complex at Dungeness.

#### REFERENCES

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#### SHORT COMMUNICATION

***Ctenophora flaveolata* (F.) (Diptera: Tipulidae) from The Warburg Reserve, Oxon.**—Whilst on an evening visit on 13.iv.1993 to The Warburg Reserve SSSI (formerly known as Bix Bottom), Oxon (grid reference SU7187) I took a male of this impressive species from a beech trunk. The specimen was reluctantly taken, since its rarity was predicted, but fading light meant that photography was not possible. The species is currently given Red Data Book 2 status in Falk (1991), and is associated with ancient beech woodlands in Southern England. This specimen was taken in an area of the reserve dominated by mature beech. A map of its national distribution and brief notes on its ecology and status were recently published by Stubbs (1992) and a recent record was also given by Alexander (1991). Despite its rarity, the species has been recorded on three other occasions in Oxon (J. Campbell, pers. comm.). The record is particularly interesting because of the very early date; the species is normally recorded in May.

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